

**McCall, Brandon**

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**From:** Harrison Broadnax [harry494@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 7:39 AM

**To:** McCall, Brandon

**Subject:** Opposition to RCB 870

I respectfully request that you share this e-mail with all members of the Select Committee on Children as soon as possible. Thank you.

As President of the Board of Directors of Children In Placement, Inc. - Connecticut's CASA Program based in New Haven - I strongly urge you to oppose RCB 870. This proposed legislation is an unnecessary expenditure of time, effort, and resources we can ill afford in the State of CT, and is also inconsistent with National CASA standards to which we currently adhere.

Children in Placement has enjoyed a longstanding proven track record of successfully administering the CASA Program, serving the needs of some of Connecticut's most vulnerable young people for 30+ years. Our track record speaks for itself: a small but dedicated staff with a broad range of expertise and experiences; a diverse Board of Directors, a group of professionals who collectively have many, many years of experience working with and for non-profits; and most of all, an array of well-trained, very committed volunteers from all corners of the state who have served as effective advocates for abused and neglected children.

For years, our parent organization - National CASA - along with judges, lawyers, social workers, business owners, and other child welfare advocates have all recognized and celebrated the efforts and achievements of CIP. But the true measure of our success has been the hundreds of children and families we have served by being an independent voice and effective advocate on their behalf.

Commitment to high quality service and lean, cost-effective management of a largely volunteer-driven organization has been our hallmark, and we have worked tirelessly to achieve the highest standards possible that will result in the best outcomes for children.

The rationale for this bill eludes us. As Connecticut residents and policy makers who are seeing our resources shrink instead of expand, we should recognize the fact that we are, truly, fortunate enough to have a statewide organization like CIP already in place delivering cost-effective, volunteer-driven services to our state's most vulnerable children. As the old adage goes, "if it isn't broken, then why fix it?"

Thank you for your consideration, and again, I urge you to move swiftly to OPPOSE RCB 870. Sincerely, Carol Anastasio, CIP Board President, New Haven resident.

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